



News and Events in the 5th Grade
September 12, 2011
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Important Dates

Sept. 12 - 14 Free Dental Clinic
Sept. 16 Math Test - Unit 1
Sept. 19 Picture Day
Oct. 7 Personal Narrative Writing Assignment Due

Dear Families,

It was wonderful to see so many parents at Curriculum Night last week. If you were unable to attend, a copy of the presentation is posted on the 5th Grade wiki. Parent/teacher conferences will be held the week of October 17. If you weren't able to sign up for a conference at Curriculum Night, your child's homeroom teacher will contact you within the next two weeks to get you signed up.

A free dental clinic will be held September 12-14. If you requested your student have an appointment, they will be pulled out of class for no more than 15 minutes this week.

Picture Day is Monday, September 19. If you are ordering school pictures, please have your child return the completed picture envelope to his/her homeroom teacher.

Art

The Art Room blog is back! Please check out www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com. Here you can see what your student is learning about in Art, and see our artwork as well.

Language Arts/Writing

Focus: Personal Narratives: write about one specific experience that changed how you acted, thought, or felt.

This week we will continue to work on our personal narrative rough drafts and begin revising them by the end of the week.

Grammar lessons begin this week. We will focus on identifying fragment sentences and adding correct punctuation to examples and our own writing. Students will have one page of grammar homework on Tuesday and one page on Thursday.



Reading/Literature

Unit Title/Theme

Taking a Stand

Enduring Understanding

Sometimes conditions or situations in life force people to take action.

Essential Question

What makes people take action?

Word Study Skill

Homophones

Comprehension Skill

Character and Setting: Relationships between characters and the setting affect the plot events in a story.

Math

Graded quizzes were returned to students today. Please ask your child to see his/her quiz. This week, we will work on prime factorization and factor trees. That will bring us to the end of Unit 1 and we will have a **unit test on Friday**. The test will cover prime, composite and square numbers, arrays, factors, multiples and factorization. We will review in class on Thursday and students will be given a review sheet from which to study. We still have a few TI-15 calculators available for purchase at a cost of \$16. If you would like to purchase a calculator for your child, please send cash or a check payable to Holmes School.

Science

Last Friday, students were able to get a firsthand look at the Earth Tub in operation. We were trained on operating the composter and some students got the chance to mix the contents by turning the tub. Our Green Friday activities (composting, vermiculture and recycling) will begin on September 23. This week, we begin learning about air pollution. We will focus on visible air pollutants (particulate matter) and investigate the sources of particulate matter in and around the school.

Social Studies

Last week, students worked together on an introduction to the research process with landforms as their topic. We ended the week with a lesson on 9/11 so students would have a deeper understanding of the events of that day in advance of the 10th anniversary this past weekend. This week, we will jump ahead in history to Civil Rights in order to align with our Treasures curriculum theme: Taking a Stand. This will allow students to explore more deeply topics such as the lunch counter sit-ins, the Freedom Riders, and Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

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